

A
 REVIEW
 OF THE
 STATE
 OF THE
 BRITISH NATION.

Thursday, August 26. 1708.

AND now the War is begun in Flanders. — Just begun; and if this be not as warm a Campaign as any has been made in these Parts of the World, I am mistaken—What Defence *Lisle* will make with 14000 Men in it, I cannot pretend to say; there is no doubt the *French* will do their best—For on the Time the Allies spend before this Place, depends the greatest Part of the Success of the Year; if the *French* can hold out the Citadel, as they did the Castle of *Namure* once before, and carry us to the middle of *September* in the Work, they will presume it shall finish our Summers Work, and we shall undertake no more Sieges this Year; and so the next Winter being before them, they will have time to take Breath—

But if the Siege be push'd with such Vigour as to bring the Garrison to an early Capitulation, I make no question of an early Advance upon some other considerable Action, before the Campaign is over yet.

But O the Invasion of *France* now with 1500 Men, and stay there two Hours; what says our Anti-Victory Men to this? I know not what they may say to it, but I'll tell them they may see by it, what a low Ebb the Affairs of *France* are brought to, that all the Inhabitants being fled from their Habitations, 1500 Men might, if not countermanded upon some other Occasions, have ravaged the Country at their Pleasure; and had the Dragons been there to have spoken, with the Militia-Horse, which they

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they say were seen at a Distance, might perhaps have rais'd Contribution, as far as such a Body of Men could be supposed to extend themselves.

Therefore my Advice to those Gentlemen is, to hold their Tongues a little while, till they see the Issue; there is no doubt, that little Body of Men may yet be so plac'd, as to do all that can be expected from their Number—And as to *France*, their Affairs are at present in such a Condition, that those few Men might land in the Places between *Dunkirk* and the Bottom of the Bay of *Biscay*, and insult the Coast of *France* in every Place, burn and destroy, and do what they please. In the mean time, if they are apply'd nearer home, where the *French* pretend more nearly to insult us, perhaps they may be as useful as elsewhere; and as for the Coast of *France*, while the Seas are our own, as it is plain they are, we can put them in mind of us that way whenever we please.

And now for the Duke of *Savoy*; if I mistake not, the *French* will receive as sensible a Blow on that side as in *Flanders*; and if the *Mareschal De Villars* do not keep him on the other side of the Mountains, if our last Advice that he had cut him off from *Briançon* and *Exiles*, Places by which he may enter *Dauphiné* with Ease, prove true, and he should give him the Slip, and get into *France* that way, you will put the *French* Affairs into as great an Agony almost, as if the Duke of *Marlborough* were at the Gates of *Amiens*.

What we are to apprehend from the Duke of *Bavaria* passing the *Rhine*, I cannot yet guess, nor is there, I hope, any great Apprehension of him; what his Forces are, and in what Posture for Action, we have not heard lately; it is a great Misfortune to the Allies, that the *German* Army cannot act; and were the Duke of *Bavaria* in a Condition to march into his own Country, no question, but this is the Time for such an Action; but sure the *Germans* cannot be in a Condition so miserably handcuff'd, as to let that Attempt be made with an inferior Force.

Metbinks the present Posture of the Imperial Army on the *Rhine*; under this great Prince, calls upon us to do some Justice to the Memory of Prince *Lewis* of *Baden*—When the Season advanc'd, and the Campaign should begin—And we found the *Germans* did nothing, we used to vent all our Satyrs on Prince *Lewis*, either he had the Goat, or his Lady was ill at *Rastat*, or he was gone to drink the Waters here, or use the Baths there—And all was Prince *Lewis*. And how did we abuse that brave Man, and one of the greatest Generals of his Age, that was never beaten in the Field, or over-reach'd in his Camp, either by *French* or *Turk*, and had next to the Great Duke of *Lorraine* fought the most and the greatest Battles against the *Turks*, of any Prince in *Europe*—The Case was plain, he found the *Germans* short of Money, their Funds deficient, and their Magazines empty, and he would not appear in the Army to be bankrupt and insulted, to be bid march without Pay, and be oblig'd to live at Discretion upon Friends; and at the same time be not in a Condition to see an Enemy.

Were the General of the Imperial Army a Prince of less Dignity and Experience than the Duke of *Hannover*, we should have our Mouths as full of Railery at him; but he plainly lets us all know, what is the Matter, and where the Mistake lies: His Highness is come from his own Country, shew'd himself at the Head of the Imperial Army in Time, and had they been in Condition to act, they had not wanted his Assistance; but what can a General do without an Army? What can a General and an Army do without Magazines, without Money, and without Necessaries?—And while the Princes, whose Quota's are deficient, refuse or delay their Contingents, nothing can be expected but Misfortune on that side.

Could the Eruption of the *French* on that side be to the Punishment of those negligent People, and no other, I should almost wish the Duke of *Bavaria* Success in his passing the *Rhine*—No Question he will raise Contributions, and levy heavy Taxes again upon

upon the poor Countries of *Wirttemberg* and the *Palatinate*; and if he penetrates to the *Danube* again, it is nothing but what we ought to expect— Upon my Word, should he venture for *Bavaria* again, and reach it, he may make the Empire tremble a second Time, tho' he should carry with him but 15000 Men.

I see no Shoe pinches the *French King* like the Duke of *Savoy*; there he is sensibly touch'd, I do not think he is more affected with the Affair in *Flanders*, nor indeed is he in more Danger there— The *French*, we see, obstinately persist in keeping Possession of *Ghent*, they are not insenti-

ble of the Straight it is to the Confederates, and how it pinches and presses the *Dutch*, and what farther they may push at, while the Duke is at the Siege of *Lisse*, I will not say; but I fear much for *Brussels*, *Louvain*, *Antwerp*, and all the open Country of *Brabant*, which if they push at, they will extend their Contributions to the Gates of *Breda* and *Bergen op-Zoom*.

And what else can be the Meaning of fortifying *Ghent*, but that they may venture to leave it, and yet secure that Part of the Country for a safe Retreat, and put it out of Fear of being taken as an open Town, by whoever is Master of the Field.

MISCELLANEA.

THE Remainder of the Representation, So promis'd in our Last, the Reader may take as follows.

“ **H**Ave thus answer'd our Libel in Point of Law, we shall conclude our Defence with a Word or two from the Principles of Christianity and Charity.

“ As to which we beg leave to say, That it is not altogether agreeable to the Rules of Christianity, for our Accuser to endeavour the shutting up of our Mouths and Meeting-Houses, since we thereby design nothing, so much as the Glory of God, and the Advantage of the Souls of those who are pleased to hear us. And albeit it may by the Providence of God prove a comfortable Mean for subsisting our Families, we cannot think that our Accusers or any other are so invidious as to grudge us the same, or so cruel as to be offended thereat, and by this Process to deprive us of the same.

“ And the Libel appears no less disagreeable to the Rules of Charity, since we are thereby accused as Persons not only disaffected to the Government, but factious, and Encouragers of wicked Designs against the Country, which uncharitable Thought, we presume to say, can have no Rise from our Practices, Lives or Doctrines, since we in our private and several Stations have kept our selves disinterested from all publick Affairs and Matters of Government, and can give the Defiance to our greatest Enemies, to give the least Instance of any Disorder or Disturbance occasion'd either from our selves or Meeting-Houses. And therefore these high Crimes wherewith we are charged in this Libel appear both Groundless and Invidious.

In Respect whereof it's expected, that the Honourable Lord Provost and Magistrates of the good Town will have no Regard to this Libel exhibited against us, or allow their Fiscal to insist further in the Prosecution thereof.

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